

1 Objections to the Specification

2 The Abstract

3 The Abstract has been objected to as being in excess of 150 words (see
4 paragraph 5 of the Office action).

5 In response, the Abstract has been amended to be 150 words or less in
6 length. The Applicants therefore request that the objection to the Abstract be
7 removed.

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9 Brief Description of the Drawings

10 The Brief Description of the Drawings has been objected to as not referring to
11 Figs. 1-5 as "prior art." (See paragraph 6 of the Office action.)

12 For the reasons stated above (see "Prior Art", page 4 above, beginning at line
13 15) the Applicants contend that Figs. 1-5 do not need to be labeled or described as
14 "prior art" since they were taken from an earlier application to which the present
15 application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120. The Applicants therefore
16 respectfully request that the objection to the specification on these grounds be
17 removed.

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19 Information Disclosure Statement

20 The Examiner has requested copies of the references cited in the Background
21 section of the application (specifically, "Friction of Rocks", *Pure Applied Geophysics*,
22 116 (1978), pp. 615-626, by J. D. Byerlee, and *Mechanics of Incremental*
23 *Deformations*, by M. A. Biot, New York, 1965).

24 A copy of the Byerlee reference is provided herewith in the enclosed
25 Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Applicants' and their
attorney have been unable to locate a copy of the reference by M. A. Biot, which is now
out of print. The Applicants' attorney has attempted to locate a copy from various